

December, 8, 2011

Dear Marian and staff,

I would like to share with you my experience as a new farmer and my appreciation for the Beginning Farmer Program. It is often difficult to catch the attention of potential landlords as a new, small operation. The established, large operations have a significant advantage that allows them to offer a landlord higher rent than a beginning farmer could offer. Nebraska's Beginning Farmer Program provides a powerful incentive to encourage landlords to work with new farmers. For me, the program aided in growing to a size of operation that likely makes a long-term farming career feasible. Of the many challenges I face, I believe that farm operations will continue to grow in size and shrink in numbers, but the Beginning Farmer Program has helped to give me a start and foothold in the industry.

I believe that new farmers are a crucial part of the community and have much to offer the industry and the environment. I am very appreciative of the landlords and the supporters of this program who recognize the value of new farmers.

Sincerely,

Gordon Luebbe